

3. NOTES ON THE WHALES OF THE CAPE; BY E. L. LAYARD, ESQ., OF CAPE-TOWN, CORR. MEMB. WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SPECIES; BY DR. J. E. GRAY.

Mr. E. Layard, the Keeper of the South African Museum at Cape-Town, has most kindly sent me descriptions and drawings, made by Mr. Trimen, of the skulls of the Cetacea contained in that museum. Amongst these is the drawing of a Porpoise or Grampus taken in Kalk Bay (Simon's Bay). Unfortunately the skull of this animal was placed in the skin during Mr. Layard's absence from the Cape; so that it cannot be got at for description; but, from what he saw of the dentition, he believes it is like a Grampus—very like the figure of the skull of *G. cuvierii* in the 'Catalogue of Cetacea in the Collection of the British Museum,' t. 5. f. 1. He says that there is a separate skull, greatly resembling that figure, in the South African Museum.

The Grampus (?) prepared with the skull in the skin, mentioned above, is represented as having a rounded head, without any appearance of a beak. "It is entirely deep brown black; the skin smooth, with a few wrinkles behind the chin and on the front edge of the pectoral fin.

"The entire length, from the nose to the end of the tail, 8 feet; from the nose to the front base of the dorsal fin, along the curve, 3 feet 9 inches; of the dorsal, 10 inches; of the back, from the hinder edge of the dorsal fin to the end of the tail, 3 feet 10 inches; width of the tail, 1 foot 11 inches.

"Length from the front of the mouth to the base of the pectoral, 1 foot $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; of the upper edge of the pectoral, 1 foot 5 inches."

In the South African Museum are two smaller skulls from the coast of the Cape,—one apparently of a *Steno*, with $\frac{37}{38}$ teeth; and the other of a *Delphinus*, probably the common one of Table Bay, which has $\frac{24}{25}$ teeth.

These are probably new species, to be described.

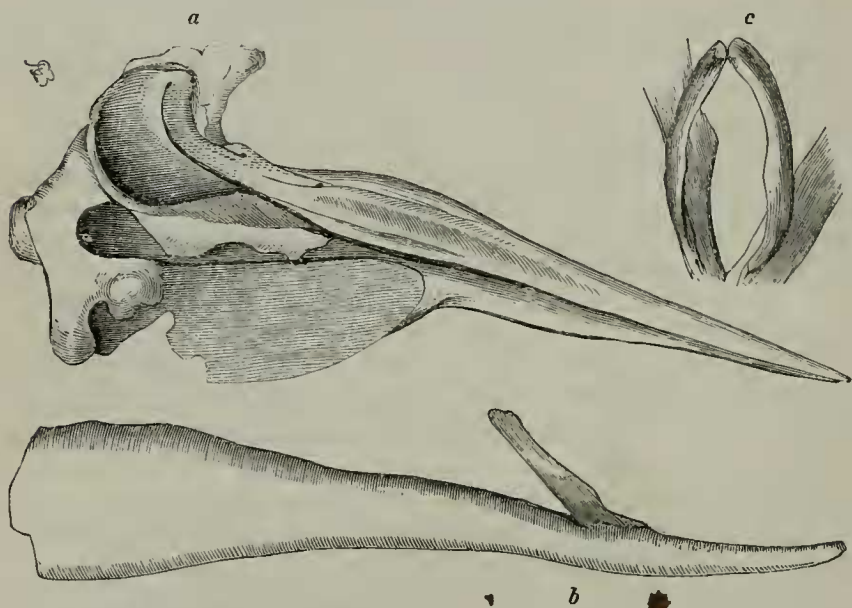
Mr. Layard observes, "These Cetaceans are constantly in the Bay; but I cannot get the fishermen, who catch plenty of the *Delphinus*, to bring them to the museum. I have offered the market value, besides all the flesh and the blubber; but they are so prized as food by the men that they are cut up instantly and sold by auction."

"Two, if not more, species of Whales come into our bays to calve. I have never been fortunate enough to see them entire; but, from the remains, I think them to be the "Right Whale" (*Balæna*) and Humpback (*Megaptera*). By the way, do you know the meaning of *Pæskop*? The Dutch are the dirtiest-minded people I ever met with: they have heaps of such names for their animals and plants."

"I have seen off the coast several species of Whale (one near Agulhas) with an enormous elongated back-fin; which could it be? They are in sight for an hour at least."

"I send you a drawing, by our friend Mr. Trimen, of the skull of a Cetacean which I have taken to be a *Ziphius*, probably a very old *Ziphius sechellensis*; but the figure in your 'Catalogue of the Ce-

tacea in the British Museum,' t. 3. f. 2, does not convey any idea how the curious flattened teeth arch over the upper jaw, as shown in Mr. Trimen's drawing. I stood by him all the time, so can answer for the correctness of the sketch; and I took the measurements myself." The drawing shows that it is the skull of an animal more allied to *Ziphius micropterus* than to *Z. seychellensis*. It differs from *Z. seychellensis* in the lower jaw being elongate, slender, gradually tapering in front, like the lower jaw of *Z. micropterus*. It differs from the latter species in the tooth on the side of the jaw being elongated, strap-shaped, with a small process* in the front side of the truncated apex, and especially in these teeth being arched inwards, forming a high arch "over the upper jaw," the crown of the lateral teeth being short and triangular in *Z. micropterus*. It is evidently quite distinct in the form of the rostrum of the skull and the shape of the teeth from the *Ziphius micropterus* of the coast of Europe. I therefore propose to call it *Ziphius layardii*.



a, b. Skull and lower jaw of *Ziphius layardii*. *c.* Teeth of lower jaw, from front.

The entire length of the skull, from condyle to top of the rostrum, 3 feet 7 inches; of the rostrum, from tip to the notch, 2 feet 6 inches; the width at the widest part of the brain-case 1 foot 6 inches; the length in a straight line, from the tip of the rostrum to the crest over the blower, 2 feet 11 inches; the height of the skull, from the hinder part of the palate to the crest over the blower, 1 foot 2 inches.

The entire length of the lower jaw 3 feet; the length of the condyle, to the hinder edge of the base of the tooth, 1 foot 11½ inches; the length of the exposed part of the tooth along the anterior edge, 9½ inches; the width below the teeth of the side of the lower jaw, measured from the inner part of their base, 3 inches.

* The process is not so distinctly shown as it ought to be in the woodcut.

